

REMARKS

Claims 8-19, as amended, remain herein. Claims 1-7 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 15-19 have been added. Applicants believe that this Amendment places this application fully in condition for allowance, and surely in better condition for any appeal. Thus, entry of this Amendment and allowance of all claims 8-19 are respectfully requested.

1. Claims 8 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 8 and 13 have been amended to moot the rejection. Claims 8 and 13 recite “a reflection plane which reflects and refracts the laser light passing through the waveguides.” Page 26, fourth paragraph, and page 28, third paragraph, of applicants’ specification support this amendment.

2. Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) over Stites ’330.

Stites ’330 fails to disclose or suggest that a “distance along the path from a light input surface of the waveguides to a light output surface of the waveguides satisfies the following equation: $L \geq W/\tan(\sin)^{-1}(\sin(\theta/2)/n)$, wherein W is a width of the waveguide, n is a refractive index inside the waveguide, θ is a minimum beam spread angle of the laser light source,” as recited in claim 13. There is no disclosure in Stites ’330 regarding these elements of claim 13.

For all the foregoing reasons, there is no disclosure or teaching in Stites '330 of all elements of applicants' presently claimed invention. Accordingly, Stites '330 is not an adequate basis for rejection of applicants' claim under § 102. Nor is there any disclosure in Stites '330 that would have suggested applicants' claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in this art.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

3. Claims 8-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) over Stites '330. Claim 8 recites the equation discussed above with respect to claim 13. Thus, Claims 8-12 are patentable over Stites' 330 for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 13.

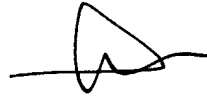
4. Claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) over Japanese Published Patent Application No. 8-111107 and Stites '330. JP '107 fails to teach or suggest the equation recited in claims 13 and 14.

5. New claims 15-19 are like canceled claims 2-6. Claim 15-19 are patentable by virtue of their dependency from claim 8.

Accordingly, all claims 8-19 are now fully in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. If further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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